

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) a TACI protein, wherein said TACI protein comprises comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - (c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:1;wherein said polypeptides and fragments of (i) (a), (b) and (c) bind TACI-L SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (ii) a ~~TACI-L~~ protein, wherein said ~~TACI-L~~ protein comprises comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or
 - (c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:3;wherein said polypeptides and fragments of (ii) (a), (b) and (c) bind ~~TACI~~ SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) a the test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii);

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii) is identified.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the ~~TACI~~ proteins of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ proteins of (ii) is labeled with a detectable moiety.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein both the ~~TACI~~ proteins of (i) and (ii) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein are soluble.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein both the soluble ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the soluble ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii) are labeled with a detectable moiety.
19. (Previously added) The method of claim 15 wherein the test compound is an antibody.
20. (Previously added) The method of claim 19 wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the composition is formed by adding the test compound to ~~a composition comprising the TACI~~ the protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii).
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises determining a dissociation constant of the interaction of the protein of (i) TACI with the protein of (ii) TACI-L.
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises assessing activation of the protein of (i) TACI in a cell.
24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein assessing activation of the protein of (i) TACI in a cell is measured by calcium influx.
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the protein of (ii) TACI-L is ~~an soluble~~ extracellular domain. ~~TACI-L~~.
26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the ~~soluble~~ extracellular domain ~~TACI-L~~ further comprises a leucine zipper domain.
27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) is ~~soluble~~ an extracellular domain. ~~TACI~~.
28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the ~~soluble~~ extracellular domain further comprises a Fc domain. ~~TACI~~ is ~~TACI-Fc~~.

29. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) ~~a TACI protein, wherein said TACI protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:~~
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; wherein said fragments binds SEQ ID NO:4~~TACI-L~~;
 - (ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (iii) a ~~the~~ test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the ~~TACI protein~~ polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4~~the TACI-L protein~~;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~TACI protein and the TACI-L protein~~ is identified.

30. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (ii) ~~TACI-L~~ a protein, wherein said ~~TACI-L~~ protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; wherein said fragments binds TACI-L SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (iii) the ~~a~~ test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2~~TACI protein and the TACI-L protein~~ polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~TACI protein and the TACI-L protein~~ polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 is identified.

31. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L~~, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragments binds TACI-L SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (ii) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said fragments binds TACI the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (iii) the a test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of ~~the TACI protein~~ a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and the TACI-L protein a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, the TACI protein and a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~the TACI-L protein~~ is identified.

32. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L~~, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
 - (i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
 - (iii) a ~~the~~ test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~TACI protein~~ and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~TACI-L protein~~;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~TACI protein~~ and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~TACI-L protein~~ is identified.

33. (Previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 is amino acids 1-166 of SEQ ID NO:2.

34. (Previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 is amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4.